

AI FORUM NEWSLETTER

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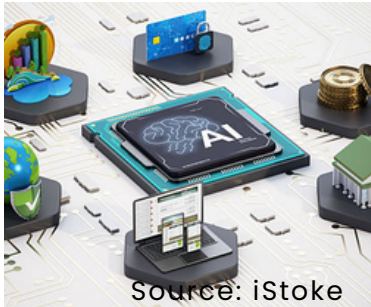


Prompt: Khmer New Year (April 14–16) marks the end of Cambodia's harvest. Families honor traditions at pagodas, decorate homes, and enjoy cultural dances. The festival concludes with lively water and powder fights to symbolize purification and luck for the coming year.

Photo Credit: ChatGPT

1. MEF data centre achieves international Tier IV certification មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលទិន្នន័យរបស់ក្រសួងសេដ្ឋកិច្ច និងហិរញ្ញវត្ថុ ទទួលបានវិញ្ញាបនបត្រ Tier IV ដែលបញ្ជាក់អំពីស្តង់ដារអន្តរជាតិកម្រិតខ្ពស់បំផុត

Source: [Khmer Times](#)



Cambodia's Ministry of Economy and Finance has achieved Tier IV Design Document Certification from the Uptime Institute for its Data and Disaster Recovery Centre, marking a major step in strengthening the country's digital infrastructure. The facility, completed in December 2025 with capacity for 300 racks, is designed for high resilience and continuous operation through full redundancy and active-active data synchronization with a secondary site in Phnom Penh. With fault tolerance ensuring minimal downtime (up to 99.9% uptime), the centre provides a secure and uninterrupted technological foundation that supports modern public services, financial management systems, and scalable data operations relevant to advanced digital and AI-driven applications.

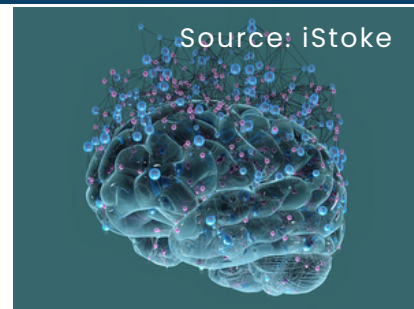
Reference:
Mom, K. (2026, April 9). MEF data centre achieves international Tier IV certification. *Khmer Times*. <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501877953/mef-data-centre-achieves-international-tier-iv-certification/>

2. AI cybersecurity seminar warns youth of risks សិក្ខាសាលាស្តីពីសន្តិសុខសាយប័រ និង AI សង្កត់ធ្ងន់លើយុវជនឱ្យមានការប្រុងប្រយ័ត្ន ចំពោះហានិភ័យផ្សេងៗ

Source: [Khmer Times](#)

A seminar on “Cybersecurity in the Age of AI” at Duan Hao University highlighted increasing risks from AI-driven cyber threats, including data poisoning, adversarial attacks, backdoor vulnerabilities, and privacy breaches. Experts emphasized that AI introduces more complex and less visible security challenges, requiring proactive, lifecycle-based protection across data, models, and applications. The event stressed the importance of combining technical knowledge with ethical awareness and critical thinking, while also noting the role of data-driven deep learning in enhancing threat detection and system resilience.

Reference:
Ben, S. (2026, April 9). AI cybersecurity seminar warns youth of risks. *Khmer Times*. <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501877761/ai-cybersecurity-seminar-warns-youth-of-risks/>



3. Finance minister stresses commitment to making S. Korea global AI hub

រដ្ឋមន្ត្រីក្រសួងហិរញ្ញវត្ថុ បញ្ជាក់ពីការប្តេជ្ញាចិត្ត ក្នុងការធ្វើឱ្យប្រទេសកូរ៉េខាងត្បូង
ក្លាយជាមជ្ឈមណ្ឌលបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI) លំដាប់សកល

Source: [Yonhap News Agency](#)



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Song, S. H. (2026, April 17). Finance minister stresses commitment to making S. Korea global AI hub. *Yonhap News Agency*.

<https://english.kyodonews.net/articles/-/74344>

South Korea's Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol emphasized the country's commitment to becoming a global AI hub, highlighting that major institutions such as the World Bank and several U.N. agencies are planning to establish AI platforms in Korea, with further outreach to organizations like the International Monetary Fund. He stressed prioritizing AI-related semiconductor sectors, including memory and sensor chips, and focusing on small language models applied to industries like automotive and home appliances, while acknowledging challenges in competing with U.S.-led large language models. He also framed AI as a tool to boost productivity and address global economic growth and imbalance issues.

4. South Korea's universities can't drive its AI transition without better policy

សាកលវិទ្យាល័យនានានៅកូរ៉េខាងត្បូង មិនអាចជំរុញការផ្លាស់ប្តូរទៅរកយុគសម័យ
AI បានទេ ប្រសិនបើគ្មានគោលនយោបាយច្បាស់លាស់នៅឡើយ

Source: [Times Higher Education](#)



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Kim, K. (2026, April 17). South Korea's universities can't drive its AI transition without better policy. *Times Higher Education*.

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/opinion/south-koreas-universities-cant-drive-its-ai-transition-without-better-policy>

South Korea's higher education system is being positioned as a key driver of the country's AI transition, with universities expected to incorporate AI in various areas, such as curriculum and infrastructure, exemplified by initiatives from Korea University and Chonnam National University. Government policies emphasize AI as essential for aligning talent development and technological progress; however, challenges persist, including institutional inequalities, inadequate coordination with labor and immigration policies, and insufficient, unstable funding for AI investments. The article concludes that effective leadership in this AI transition requires coherent regulation, persistent financial backing, and clear differentiation among institutions.

5. Top Vietnamese leader visits China–ASEAN AI Application Cooperation Center

មេដឹកនាំកំពូលរបស់វៀតណាម បានធ្វើទស្សនកិច្ចនៅមជ្ឈមណ្ឌល
កិច្ចសហប្រតិបត្តិការកម្មវិធីបញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI) ចិន-អាស៊ាន

Source: [Vietnam Pictorial](#)

On April 17, 2026, To Lam visited the China–ASEAN AI Application Cooperation Center in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region during a state visit to China, where he observed exhibitions on China–Vietnam AI collaboration and AI-powered products. The center, jointly established by China and ASEAN countries, promotes inclusive global AI development and supports the “Digital Silk Road” initiative. It facilitates Chinese enterprises entering ASEAN markets while advancing AI applications in sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, tourism, education, finance, and logistics, and emphasizes AI workforce training. By the end of 2025, 67 projects had been signed, with plans to expand across China and ASEAN, including a proposed Vietnam–China AI cooperation center.



Source: iStoke

Reference:
Vietnam Pictorial. (2026, April 17). *Top Vietnamese leader visits China–ASEAN AI Application Cooperation Center*.
<https://vietnam.vnnet.vn/english/tin-tuc/top-vietnamese-leader-visits-china%E2%80%9393asean-ai-application-cooperation-center-441008.html>

6. UN experts focus on human-centred AI governance អ្នកជំនាញអង្គការសហប្រជាជាតិផ្តោតលើការគ្រប់គ្រង AI ដែលផ្អែកលើមនុស្ស ជាគោល

Source: [Digwatch](#)



Source: iStoke

The United Nations has convened an Independent International Scientific Panel on AI to study how AI is transforming economies and societies, focusing on risks, opportunities, and maintaining human oversight in decision-making. The panel promotes a human-centred approach, emphasizing “augmented intelligence,” where AI complements human capabilities, and is examining impacts across sectors such as labour and healthcare, as well as challenges like inclusivity and digital access. Driven by concerns over trust, ethics, and accountability, the initiative highlights the need for governance frameworks aligned with human rights, including measures like AI watermarking to improve transparency. The study’s findings will contribute to global AI policy discussions, with an initial report to be presented at an international dialogue in Geneva.

Reference:
Digwatch. (2026, April 15). *UN experts focus on human-centred AI governance*.
<https://dig.watch/updates/un-experts-focus-on-human-centred-ai-governance>

7. Global data governance efforts expand as UNESCO supports policy capacity for AI systems

កិច្ចខិតខំប្រឹងប្រែងគ្រប់គ្រងទិន្នន័យសកលកំពុងរីកដុះជាល ខណៈដែលអង្គការ
UNESCO ជួយពង្រឹងសមត្ថភាពរៀបចំគោលនយោបាយសម្រាប់ប្រព័ន្ធ
បញ្ញាសិប្បនិម្មិត (AI)

Source: [Digwatch](#)



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Digwatch. (2026, April 14). *Global data governance efforts expand as UNESCO supports policy capacity for AI systems*. <https://dig.watch/updates/global-data-governance-efforts-expand-as-unesco-supports-policy-capacity-for-ai-systems>

The UNESCO and United Nations Development Programme have initiated a program to assist governments in creating rights-based data governance frameworks for AI. This initiative aims to promote responsible digital transformation by equipping policymakers with the necessary tools for developing transparent and accountable data systems. It addresses the need for structured governance of data-driven technologies and has been implemented in sectors like healthcare and social protection to enhance public services. Additionally, it encourages international collaboration and focuses on building institutional capacity to ensure AI functions within established legal and ethical guidelines.

8. S.E.C. Mega Factory launches, marking new era for Cambodia

ការបើកសម្ពោធរោងចក្រខ្នាតធំ S.E.C. គឺជាការបោះជំហានចូលទៅក្នុងយុគសម័យថ្មី
សម្រាប់កម្ពុជា

Source: [Khmer Times](#)



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Mathew, M. (2026, April 11). *S.E.C. Mega Factory launches, marking new era for Cambodia*. *Khmer Times*. <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501879421/s-e-c-mega-factory-launches-marking-new-era-for-cambodia/>

The launch of S.E.C. Mega Factory Co., Ltd. in Kandal province marks Cambodia's shift toward a more advanced, technology-driven industrial economy, with a strong emphasis on AI-enabled manufacturing. The facility integrates artificial intelligence and advanced production systems to streamline processes, improve product quality, and increase efficiency, supporting the country's move up global value chains. Backed by S.E.C. Group, the project highlights the role of AI, automation, and innovation in enhancing competitiveness, while also contributing to employment, exports, and sustainable industrial development.

9. China doubles 'AI for science' computing scale in 2 months using no US chips

ចិនបានបង្កើនសមត្ថភាពកុំព្យូទ័រសម្រាប់ «ការស្រាវជ្រាវវិទ្យាសាស្ត្រដោយប្រើ AI» របស់ខ្លួនទ្វេដង ក្នុងរយៈពេលត្រឹមតែ ២ ខែប៉ុណ្ណោះ ដោយមិនប្រើបន្ទះឈីបរបស់អាមេរិកឡើយ

Source: [South China Morning Post](#)

Source: iStoke



China has significantly enhanced its "AI for science" capabilities by expanding its largest AI computing cluster in Zhengzhou from 30,000 to 60,000 accelerator chips. This fully domestic system, which includes chips, interconnects, and software, reduces reliance on US technology and increases computing power for complex scientific research. The introduction of the OneScience platform allows scientists, regardless of programming skills, to access AI models and datasets, accelerating research in areas such as drug discovery and materials science, and shortening lengthy processes to mere days.

Reference:

Chik, H. (2026, April 16). China doubles 'AI for science' computing scale in 2 months using no US chips. *South China Morning Post*.
<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3350208/china-doubles-ai-science-computing-scale-2-months-using-no-us-chips>

10. Health care is not ready for the new era of AI-enabled cyberattacks

ប្រព័ន្ធសុខាភិបាល នៅពុំទាន់មានលទ្ធភាពគ្រប់គ្រាន់ ដើម្បីទប់ទល់នឹងការវាយប្រហារតាមអ៊ីនធឺណិត ដោយប្រើបច្ចេកវិទ្យា AI នៅឡើយទេ

Source: [Statnews](#)



Source: iStoke

Reference:

Downing, A. (2026, April 17). Health care is not ready for the new era of AI-enabled cyberattacks. *Statnews*.
<https://www.statnews.com/2026/04/17/health-care-cybersecurity-ransomware-project-glasswing/>

The text highlights that health care systems are ill-equipped to handle emerging AI-driven cyberattacks, which can quickly identify and exploit software vulnerabilities. This acceleration of threats creates a significant challenge, as attackers can move faster than health systems can secure themselves. The underlying problems are systemic, such as reliance on third-party vendors and slow patching processes, which hinder effective defensive measures. Consequently, the speed of AI-driven attacks threatens patient care and exposes critical weaknesses in medical digital infrastructures.

PUBLICATIONS 2026

Cambodia continues to face serious risks from landmines and explosive remnants of war despite decades of clearance efforts. This article reviews Cambodia's demining strategy and assesses the role of AI and emerging technologies in accelerating progress toward a mine-free country. It argues that while manual methods remain necessary due to terrain constraints, AI-driven tools can improve detection, planning, and resource use. Strategic integration of technology is essential to enhance safety, efficiency, and long-term recovery.

Reference:

Ros, S. (2026, February 3). *Leveraging AI and Technology for Cambodia's Demining Efforts: A Path Toward a Mine-Free Future by 2025*. AI Forum. <https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-3-2026-leveraging-ai-and-technology-for-cambodias-demining-efforts-a-path-toward-a-mine-free-future-by-2025>

AIF Insights No. 3 (2026) | Leveraging AI and Technology for Cambodia's Demining Efforts: A Path Toward a Mine-Free Future by 2025

Source: [AI Forum](#)

This paper critiques dominant AI ethics frameworks that focus on machines rather than the social and cultural contexts in which they operate. It argues that ethical AI governance should shift from asking whether an AI system is ethical to examining whether its relationship with society is ethical. Using Cambodia as a case study, the paper highlights the limits of universal governance models and proposes an embedded approach informed by sociotechnical theory and Buddhist ethics. It concludes that ethical AI depends less on technical compliance and more on culturally grounded, adaptive governance processes.

Reference:

Waddell, A. (2026, February 5). *The Machine Has No Heart: Culturally Grounded Ethics for the Infosphere*. AI Forum. <https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-4-2026-the-machine-has-no-heart-culturally-grounded-ethics-for-the-infosphere>

AIF Insights No. 4 (2026) | The Machine Has No Heart: Culturally Grounded Ethics for the Infosphere

Source: [AI Forum](#)

PUBLICATIONS 2026

AIF Insights No. 5 (2026) | AI and Electricity: Safeguarding ASEAN's Energy Security and Integration in the Digital Era

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Ros, S. (2026, February 6). *AI and Electricity: Safeguarding ASEAN's Energy Security and Integration in the Digital Era*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/ai-and-electricity-safeguarding-aseans-energy-security-and-integration-in-the-digital-era>

In the face of global energy instability and rising digital power demands, this article explores the critical role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in safeguarding energy security and fostering integration through the ASEAN Power Grid (APG). While ASEAN has established frameworks like the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) to target 23% renewable energy by 2025, a fully integrated regional grid remains a work in progress. The author argues that AI-driven smart grids can significantly enhance efficiency by predicting demand trends, managing real-time electricity flow, and reducing economic disruptions caused by blackouts. However, the transition faces substantial hurdles, including high implementation costs in developing nations, a regional technological gap, and heightened cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Ultimately, the paper concludes that for ASEAN to achieve true energy resilience, member states must prioritize collaborative defense capacity and regulatory frameworks to protect critical infrastructure against shared regional vulnerabilities.

Effective use of generative AI (GenAI) requires transitioning from a “single-tool mindset” to a deliberate system that aligns task purposes with specific model capabilities, operational modes, and rigorous human oversight. While prompting is a starting point, failures often stem from a misalignment between these elements, as different models excel at distinct functions like reasoning, retrieval, or synthesis. Furthermore, users must navigate between rapid, intuitive “System-1” modes for brainstorming and slower, analytical “System-2” modes for complex decision-making. Because GenAI outputs are probabilistic and lack accountability, the framework emphasizes that human verification—proportionate to the task’s risk—is a core professional competency. Ultimately, the paper argues that professional expertise in a GenAI-augmented world is defined by the intentional and accountable integration of these tools into human judgment.

AIF Insights No. 6 (2026) | Generative AI Use: A Task- Model-Mode- Verification Framework

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Lim, S. (2026, February 11). *Generative AI Use: A Task-Model-Mode-Verification Framework*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-6-2026-generative-ai-use-a-task-model-mode-verification-framework>

PUBLICATIONS 2026

AIF Insights No. 7 (2026) | Learning with Generative AI: Making Thinking Harder, Not Easier

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Lim, S. (2026, February 13). *Learning with Generative AI: Making Thinking Harder, Not Easier*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-7-2026-learning-with-generative-ai-making-thinking-harder-not-easier>

This article argues that the educational impact of generative AI depends not on access but on patterns of use. While GenAI can create an illusion of mastery by encouraging cognitive offloading and passive consumption, it can also function as a cognitive amplifier when used to increase effort, deepen reasoning, and strengthen self-regulated learning. The discussion highlights three common confusions — offloading versus desirable difficulty, fluency versus understanding, and plausibility versus accuracy — and proposes a three-purpose framework of inquiry, practice, and production. The central claim is that GenAI improves learning only when it preserves learners' cognitive work, supports deliberate practice, and reinforces verification, accountability, and critical judgment.

This reflective essay explores how technological change reshapes the meaning of sovereignty, particularly for small nations navigating the AI era. Drawing on a multidisciplinary career spanning medicine, history, diplomacy, and nuclear risk governance, the author examines the intellectual motivations behind designing two courses, *The Philosophy of Drone Sovereignty* and *Machines of Conflict*. The article argues that contemporary sovereignty is increasingly epistemic, grounded in a nation's capacity to generate, interpret, and verify its own data, rather than defined solely by territorial control. Through classroom experiences and lessons from nuclear crisis management, including institutional responses to Fukushima, the essay highlights how technological systems intertwine with organizational competence, public trust, and ethical judgment. It concludes that mathematics and physics are not merely academic disciplines but strategic foundations of national resilience, shaping a state's ability to manage risk, maintain autonomy, and govern complex socio-technical systems in an age of automation.

AIF Insights No. 8 (2026) | Teaching Sovereignty in the AI Age: A Self- Reflection

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Chhem, K. R. (2026, February 19). *Teaching Sovereignty in the AI Age: A Self-Reflection*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-8-2026-teaching-sovereignty-in-the-ai-age-a-self-reflection>

PUBLICATIONS 2026

AIF Insights No. 9 (2026) | From Intention to Artificial Wisdom: A Joint Reflection on AI in the Service of Humanity

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Venerable Kou, S. & Chhem, K. R. (2026, February 20). *From Intention to Artificial Wisdom: A Joint Reflection on AI in the Service of Humanity*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-9-2026-from-intention-to-artificial-wisdom-a-joint-reflection-on-ai-in-the-service-of-humanity>

This article examines how Buddhist ethical principles can inform the development and governance of artificial intelligence. It argues that while AI is transforming sectors such as healthcare, education, governance, and finance, its rapid expansion raises serious moral concerns about human dignity, accountability, and social impact. Drawing on core Buddhist teachings, including the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path, the author proposes a human-centred ethical framework grounded in compassion, mindfulness, and non-harm. The paper further connects the three Buddhist traditions, Hinayana, Mahayana, and Vajrayana, to principles of accountability, inclusivity, and adaptability in AI design. By integrating ancient moral philosophy with modern technological innovation, the article advocates for a balanced approach in which AI advancement supports human flourishing, social well-being, and ethical responsibility rather than undermining them.

This paper presents a joint reflection on Artificial Intelligence from two complementary perspectives including Buddhist practice and the philosophy of technology. We address the fundamental question of what it means for AI to serve humanity, arguing that the answer requires more than technical or political solutions because it necessitates an examination of human intention and the cultivation of the mind. Rather than viewing AI as an independent force, we propose it acts as a moral mirror that amplifies the ethical orientation of its creators and users. By integrating the Khmer concept of Artificial Wisdom, which prioritizes discernment and compassion over mere computational speed, this reflection explores how AI can be aligned with human flourishing and social harmony rather than domination.

AIF Insights No. 10 (2026) | Ethical Integration of Buddhist Principles in AI Development: A Conceptual Reflection

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

May, T. (2026, February 28). *Ethical Integration of Buddhist Principles in AI Development: A Conceptual Reflection*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-10-2026-ethical-integration-of-buddhist-principles-in-ai-development-a-conceptual-reflection>

PUBLICATIONS 2026

AIF Insights No. 11 (2026) | Applying Generative AI in Clinical Care – From Assistant to Ally: Practical, Safe Use at the Point of Care

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Cheab, S. (2026, March 4). *From Intention to Artificial Wisdom: A Joint Reflection on AI in the Service of Humanity*. AI Forum.

<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/no-11applying-generative-ai-in-clinical-care-from-assistant-to-ally-practical-safe-use-at-the-point-of-care>

Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) is becoming more accessible to doctors, but its application in real-world clinical care poses unique safety, ethical, and professional hazards. This insight offers practical, task-oriented recommendations for using GenAI ethically in everyday clinical work while maintaining human judgment and accountability. The insight is intended for medical students, residents, and practicing physicians, particularly in resource-constrained settings like Cambodia. It focuses on high-value clinical tasks such as supporting diagnostic reasoning, planning investigations, communicating with patients and families, and assisting clinical documentation. Rather than stressing conceptual theory, this insight applies principles, such as effective prompting and the Model-Mode-Verification structure. The key message is clear: GenAI can only increase clinical clarity and efficiency if clinicians remain completely responsible and human-in-the-loop.

This article examines the evolution of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) from a manual, economic-centric “box-ticking” exercise into a multi-dimensional, AI-driven model of “evidential reasoning”. In the current “Digital Age,” governments are transitioning from being mere regulators of AI to active users of the technology to enhance rule-making through “Agile Regulatory Governance” and “Rules as Code” (RaC). By leveraging AI for text mining, sentiment analysis in public consultations, and automated identification of administrative burdens, policymakers can overcome information overload and create more inclusive, data-driven interventions. However, to mitigate risks such as automation bias and data discrimination, the author argues that a strategic framework must be adopted that prioritizes transparency, multidisciplinary skills, and a strict “human-in-the-loop” approach to ensure technology supports rather than replaces accountable human judgment

AIF Insights No. 12 (2026) | Navigating Regulatory Impact Assessment in the Age of AI

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Ros, S. (2026, March 7). *Navigating Regulatory Impact Assessment in the Age of AI*. AI Forum.

<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-12-2026-navigating-regulatory-impact-assessment-in-the-age-of-ai>

PUBLICATIONS 2026

AIF Insights No. 13 (2026) | The Drone Revolution: A Strategic Roadmap for Technology Integration and Policy Action in Cambodia and the Global South

Source: [AI Forum](#)

Reference:

Ros, S. (2026, March 9). *The Drone Revolution: A Strategic Roadmap for Technology Integration and Policy Action in Cambodia and the Global South*. AI Forum.
<https://www.aiforumcambodia.org/archives/publications/aif-insights-no-13-2026-the-drone-revolution-a-strategic-roadmap-for-technology-integration-and-policy-action-in-cambodia-and-the-global-south>

This article explores the transformative potential and regulatory challenges of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), particularly within the context of Cambodia and the Global South. While drones have evolved from military roots into versatile “flying platforms” for precision agriculture, disaster management, and infrastructure inspection, their proliferation raises significant concerns regarding technical sovereignty, data privacy, and ethical automation. The author argues that Cambodia’s conservative regulatory stance—rooted in past security incidents—should transition toward a proactive strategy that leverages regional successes in 3D modeling of cultural heritage and intelligent flood forecasting. Ultimately, the paper provides a strategic roadmap recommending the establishment of a comprehensive legal framework, privacy by design through geofencing, and investment in open-source technology to ensure that drone integration serves national development rather than creating external dependence.

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The rapid global proliferation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) has fundamentally reconfigured geopolitical power dynamics by democratizing airpower and lowering the threshold for the use of military force. While over 95 nations now deploy drones, these “unmanned” systems remain heavily dependent on human operators who face unique psychological challenges due to the disconnect between remote combat and domestic life. In Asia, the fast-growing drone market supports community resilience through applications in agriculture and environmental monitoring, yet it also presents a “big data divide” where information control remains concentrated in wealthy international entities. For Cambodia, integrating drone technology offers significant opportunities for sustainable development and maritime surveillance, provided the nation adopts a strategic roadmap focused on economic resilience, technological sovereignty through open-source frameworks, and robust regulatory safety measures like geofencing. Ultimately, navigating this frontier requires a balance between leveraging autonomous technological advancements and maintaining human oversight of ethical and security-related decision-making

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